Leave of Absence

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Shyam Senegal stating that he will not be able to attend the House due to personal commitments. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence trom 21st August to 14th September, 2007, of the current session of Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 21st August to 14th September, 2007, of the current session of Rajya Sabha?

No hon. Member dissented

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighty-Fourth/ Ninety-second and One hundred second reports of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I make a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighty-fourth/Ninety-second and One hundred second Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

MOTION FOR ELECTION

The Animal Welfare Board of **India**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I move the following motion:-

> "That in pursuance of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 5, read with sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, two Members from among the Members of the House to be the Members of the Animal Welfare Board of India."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Court of the Aligarh Muslim University

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I move the following motion:-

> "That in pursuance of item (xxiv) of clause (1) read with clause (2) of Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University made under the

Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1981, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, three Members from among the Members of the House, to be the Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University against the vacancies caused due to the expiry of the term of Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai as Members of the Court."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Killing of thirty six Hindi speaking people in Assam

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Bagrodia, You have three minutes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this matter. Sir, the problem of ULFA in Assam is there for more than two decades. Sometimes, it goes down; sometimes it goes up. But many other terrorists' organisations are also becoming active and the Government has to look into it. Recently, Sir, from August 05 to August 12, 2007, in Karbi Anglong District, 36 people were killed in one week and all of them were Hindi speaking people. Sir, in these killings, the ULFA and the Karbi Longri National Liberation Front had participated. According to the news, Sir, mostly Biharis were killed. Two Marwari businessmen, very small businessmen, having small businesses, were also killed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHAYARA (Assam): Sir, he is saying ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH (Assam): Sir, Biharis have ... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I have not completed. Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... What I am going to say, you do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*... You do not know what I am going to say after this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please let me complete.

Sir, most of them were Hindi speaking people in that area. But what I want to say is that, actually speaking, many local people were also killed during these years. I am not saying that they were not killed. But now I am confining myself to Karbi Anglong Hill District, where mostly Hindi speaking people were killed, and, out of which two Marwaris, though mostly Biharis, have been killed. I would like to mention here, Sir, that Shri Jyoti Prasad Aggarwal who died at the age of 47 in the sixties was known as Rabindra Nath Tagore of Assam. People from Rajasthan had gone to Assam. 150-200 बरस पहले से वहां जा रहे हैं Even today, they go there, they mingle with the local people, they behave like local people, they dress like local people and they identify themselves with local people.

Sir, the entire country is one. People go from one place to another. I am very happy that these days, many young Assamese boys and girls are going to all parts of the country, even to Goa and remote areas in South India and they are doing good work. I welcome them. Like this, people have been coming to Assam also, to